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TRIP REPORT

[REDACTED]

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20 July 1964

The first leg of the trip, from [REDACTED] was on time and uneventful. It was discovered, however, that the rendezvous radar beacon on the article was dead. This was replaced at [REDACTED]. The replacement unit was defective, mechanically, and some sheet metal and wave guide from the radar unit was used to make the repairs. The radar was satisfactory from then on.

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The rest of the trip from [REDACTED] was uneventful and on time. One re-fueling took place, it was a precision job, done perfectly.

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After arriving at [REDACTED] the unloading was accomplished quickly and efficiently. The SSB [REDACTED] stations were set up in the hanger and flights from [REDACTED] were monitored. The second team rotated the first team [REDACTED]

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Quarters and other facilities at [REDACTED] are quite good, but the transportation problem crept in. Only three vehicles were requested, prior to the arrival of team two and these were not sufficient during shift periods to handle the quantity of men present.

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One surprising problem developed when there were no ships at the dock. During such times, it's illegal to drive around the air strip on either side after 1800 without an SP escort. The area is always patrolled by dogs at night and this can be dangerous. There are taxis on base but these are not allowed to go to the hanger area after 1800 hours, without escort. It has been estimated that seven vehicles would have provided sufficient transportation for all cases.

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The trip to [REDACTED] was uneventful, but some misunderstanding took place when arriving at [REDACTED]. This landing was not expected at the time it occurred and the radio on the C-124 did not work. The plane landed however, and soon departed for [REDACTED]. Upon arrival at [REDACTED] the plane was met by a jeep and some troops [REDACTED] with rifles.

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The ramp was lowered and people were ready to unload when [REDACTED] officer said not to get off. About this time, the loadmaster dropped the elevator, completely loaded, to the ground. [REDACTED] looked very angry and the rifles were raised at us. However things cooled down, and the plane was unloaded, and immediately took off. Apparently the C-124 was not [REDACTED] and was early.

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The advance party from [REDACTED] had set up the communications station, and the circuit was operating. The SSB and [REDACTED] were then set up, antennas erected and everything made ready for the first article to arrive.

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Prior to the arrival of the first article, it became necessary to brief [redacted] stations and do it in such a way as not to divulge any secrets. This was a rather tough assignment but is 25X1A was accomplished. The main difficulty was an idea [redacted] had, that somehow electronically, we could tell exactly where the aircraft was at all times. The expression used by [redacted] was flight following. Every 25X1A effort was used to remove this idea from them but its doubtful if this was successful. One mission was flown while the observers were present, and unfortunately this was also the last one, because of the mishap that occurred. 25X1A Once the article was removed from the end of the run-way, nothing else could be done, except repair storm damage and try to keep busy, as we were restricted to the immediate vicinity until [redacted].

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The station is described in detail as well as the equipment and some problem areas in a survey of [redacted] which is attached. The return trip was routine and very much welcomed.

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1 Attachment:  
Detailed report

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Subject: Survey of the [ ] station, [ ]

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The intent of this survey is to provide a basis for future thinking should this station be considered for future use.

To begin, the water was found to be not potable as reported. Tap water in the kitchen was tested by the cooks and found to contain only trace amounts of chlorine and occasionally far too much chlorine. The water always contained matter, which appeared to be powdered tissue paper but generally not as fuzzy as paper, always white in color. This water was used for drinking and making ice. It is pumped from a local river which is exposed to all forms of animal and human refuse as well as deluges of rain preceded by dust from the once a day storms. No local water treatment was possible until [ ] brought a kit, somewhat late.

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In order to avoid some of the diseases and infections not destroyed by chlorine, a water purification plant and pressure storage tank is absolutely essential, with enforced daily tests.

It should be pointed out that local, open storage tanks, placed high in the air are being erected at this time as a supplement to the normal city type storage tank. These tanks have had people working in them for days, large birds roost on them and they are never cleaned out. This will present an added health hazard.

The food and the kitchen were the object of some very bitter remarks and some very upset digestive systems. The food as supplied was Class B rations, which at best were poor, very dry, dull and monotonous, served every day with little change. The so called fresh beef that is available [ ] could hardly be called fresh or beef. That which was served was decaying, water buffalo or wallaby meat. It smelled so terrible that the cooks would not eat it, and it left a repulsive odor in the walk-in refrigerator which could not be removed by scrubbing. This meat was cooked and served to everyone. Those that did not eat it, did not get sick. Of the deployment, 11 cases of bowel infection developed not long after the meat was served.

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The fresh vegetables that were once available were taken off the menu because of local market inflation. This may have been to the good, because it is not known how the vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, etc) are grown. If grown as in Japan, they are not fit for human consumption, uncooked.

The kitchen or mess hall proved to be very disgraceful and unsanitary. Perhaps to the casual observer it looked pretty good, as everyone newly arrived thinks at first. The kitchen as supplied from [ ] contained only the following items: 5 M-37 field range cabinets, 15 gasoline burners, 50 mess trays, 96 cups. Of this equipment the cabinets and burners were so old that spare parts were not available nor produced anymore. To put the kitchen on a working level, the following items were purchased locally, and because of prices, were of lowest quality: knives, forks, spoons, spatulas, ladles, glasses, utensils, pots and pans, tubs, and rags. All of the metal

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items listed have a multitude of flaws, pits and rough surfaces to which old food, soap scum, and bacteria cling and build up to plainly visible deposits. It became increasingly difficult to use such things when deposits of potatoes and eggs show up each meal and the mess tray became slippery to the touch. This is not a case of neglect, its a case of poor support. A visit to the area where the utensils and trays are washed and dried has turned many stomachs from meals. One person vomited shortly after a look at this place. To most people, to wash metal mess equipment in cold, sudsless, water, rinse in cold water and stack to dry in open air abounding with flies is not sanitary. But in this mess hall, a not so clean, barefoot native boy squats on the floor, beside a shallow tub of yellowish, slimy looking cold water, rubbing the trays, pots and pans with a dark cloth. The trays then are thrown into a slightly deeper tub of cold water, which may or may not contain clorax or some other disinfectant. Although the floor was subjected to the left over wash and rinse waters, the odor and the flies give a good impression of its cleanliness.

The rags used by other natives to dry the glasses and cups were of just about the same color and cleanliness as the garments they wear for weeks without change. These materials were locally purchased, were of poorest quality, and no laundry facilities were available.

Outside the mess hall existed another area of poor sanitation control. Around the front of this building is a walkway on which dogs and natives rest, usually during the 12 noon to 3PM rest period. The dogs, 10 to 15 of them are mangy and dirty, and always looking for a cool place to sleep. The dogs and natives should be kept out of the area of the mess hall and quarters. It should be pointed out the showers and sinks drain into an open air type sewer trough which runs right under the back steps of the quarters. This trough empties into an open area inside the compound, and the dogs drink from and lie in this water.

The quarters were not too bad compared to others. Sheets and pillow cases were changed once each 10 days to 2 weeks. Local laundry is non-existent, and it takes about a week minimum to get laundry back after it is picked up. Just how the laundry is performed is not known, but anything white that is pressed will be discolored and have an unpleasant smell.

In order to circumvent the lack of laundry facilities, it is essential that approximately 3 washing machines and 2 electric dryers be provided. Locally made equipment would not be suitable. It should be remembered that to improve the sanitation of the kitchen, this laundry facility is most important.

Medical aid was a big problem and will remain so until the sanitation and water problems are solved. It may be of some interest to point out that a minimum of two severe ulcer cases, and a minimum of three former infectious hepatitis sufferers, and several former malaria sufferers were present in this deployment. Just what threat, if any, these cases may have presented only a doctor could determine readily. One thing that is a constant threat is the epidemic type disease known as gastro-intestinitis. Just about everyone in the detachment had this to some degree. Urinary infections and impetigo are two other infections that occurred during this deployment. One plague shot was

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25X1A given in [ ] to everyone, however the second shot was never given, making the one virtually useless, anti malaria pills were distributed about a week after [ ] arrived at [ ] Some kapectate was 25X1A issued to the obviously sick and disenterary cases, but none was left for future cases. Two cases of dog bite among the natives occurred during this time and these were serious.

Mosquito nets were issued after about one week and bug bombs were the only defense. Besides the above problem areas, the quarters became home to quantity of shrews and rats, which entered the rooms via the drains.

The commodes in the quarters and admin buildings are pitifully poor and almost useless. The tank requires from 15 minutes to 30 minutes to fill, and when full is so small and flat that it can only flush about 50%. Generally to remove a single piece of paper it takes two flushings and an added quart of water poured from a height of about 4 feet. Although janitorial workers are available, they have nothing to work with, other than a bunch of course fibers rolled up into a primitive brush.

The equipment supplies for support was either old and badly worn or new and un-inspected. The walk-in refrigerator, powered by an Onan gasoline engine was so bad that it was using up to 12 quarts of oil a day. It also had parts missing and was not capable of bringing the freezer down to 32°F. An AC powered unit shipped in as a replacement was new, but entirely useless because it had a 220 volt, 3 phase, 60 CPS, 4 horse power motor. The primary distribution of commercial power is 440 volt, 3 phase, 50 CPS.

The two ice machines also require 60 CPS power but at 110 volts, single phase. Both units were repaired two times, each failure was due to 50 CPS power. Each machine contains the following strictly 60 CPS components, two synchronous timing motors, a circulatory pump motor (induction type), a compressor motor (induction type), and a water valve solenoid winding. The only answer is to use 60 CPS power on all 60 CPS equipment.

Something must be done about the central air conditioner in the admin building. This unit is operated from commercial power and is off from 30 minutes to half a day with a twenty minute shut down each day to "let the motor cool off". This is ridiculous because the motor draws a minimum of 1.5 KW of power and is naturally going to run hot. Its only job is to operate a small water pump which forces the water to the top of a cooling tower. The cooled water is used to cool a condensor in the refrigeration unit of the air conditioner. The air conditioner served only two rooms of the admin building, one of which is the vaulted signal center room. Without this conditioner, the room becomes very hot in a short time with equipment running and no ventilation whatsoever.

The 100 KW, 60 CPS generator was completely out of order, with troubles too many to describe here. The two 60 KW, 60 CPS generators were operating fair to good, but the newest one would stop for no apparent reason at any time. The older one was the best running of the two but it had very noisy brushes in the exciter and they were quiet only after about 4 hours of operation. The interference sounded like an unsteady facsimile signal.

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during this period and then would stop until fuel ran out.

The fuel problem was pretty bad (speaking of fueling the generators), and there was no reason for it. The diesel fuel was used directly from the 55 gallon drums. When a drum was empty, the generator quit, and an off the air outage of from 15 to 30 minutes resulted. Another drum had to be obtained from the fuel dump, carried to the admin building site, and installed. The empty drum had to be carried back to the dump about a mile away. A single square pontoon tank of fuel would run the generators for a week or more without an outage, if one such tank could be obtained. They are locally made and used for water storage on the admin building and elsewhere.

The big fork lift sheared four drive bolts while unloading the second C-124 that landed. The bolts were replaced with the only thing available, soft malleable iron ones from an air conditioner bracket. These were sheared and replaced three times during the deployment. Locally ordered bolts were never delivered.

The new fire truck almost burned up because it was defective when shipped. The exhaust pipe was not connected to anything but the manifold and the hot exhaust gases were directed onto a tire. The tire caught fire and burned up, softening the tire next to it. The frontal sweeperson the fire truck were inoperative also.

About 50% of the locally made room air-conditioners were defective upon arrival and about 50% of the good ones went out later on. These units are of poorest quality materials, although workmanship is good to excellent. Most defective units either lost their gas or were equipped with defective starting capacitors, of which, 2 are required. It should be pointed out that a capacitor start motor cannot be started more than a specific number of times during a specific period of time, i.e., normally 10 times during a given 60 minute period. Power fluctuations were far more drastic than is usual anywhere else and the voltage and frequency excursions were such as to keep this type of motor on its start winding too long. Besides this, a thermal cutout switch in the start circuit caused a one second on-one second off-type of interruption if the motor stayed too long in the start condition during low voltage excursions. This is why the air conditioners went out so fast after installation.

The fuel truck was in terrible condition and said condition could have caused the loss of life and property if extreme caution had not been used during the first trial. This truck sprayed fuel over everything near it and inspection showed that the gasket on the filter unit was defective. None could be found to replace it, since the filter unit is about 2 feet in diameter and uses a special gasket to hold the pressure. The battery in this truck was dead and not re-chargable because of sulfation of the plates. Its case was warped and cracked, and the terminals were badly damaged from mis-use.

The hangers are not really adequate as long as the ends are open, because of the drenching rains driven by high winds. Test equipment is mid-hanger,

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between two large vans got drenched as did boxes inside the vans.

The story of the flying sheet iron roofing and the flying "C" hooks and broken cable must be well told and understood by now. In any event, the force of the storms is something to be reckoned with.

In order to preserve what is there now, communications wise, trylon towers should be installed where-ever practical, and transmission lines instead of coax cable used for feeding transmitting antennas.

25X1A A communications circuit between [ ] would eliminate a lot 25X1A  
of the confusion and delay regarding plane clearances and schedules as well  
as traffic [ ] if these are to be backup bases. Some ETA's  
were as much as 18 hours late getting to [ ] 25X1A

25X1A The mail delivery was a very sore spot to all concerned because it was  
so late and far between pickups and delivery. If the mail pouch had been  
sent to [ ] mail service would have been somewhat  
speedier from the field end because more trips were made [ ] during 25X1A  
the week. As it was, once a week was the rule [ ] if necessary. Mail 25X1A  
address changes were also delayed about a week from [ ] to home base and  
then [ ] 25X1A

25X1A If should be made perfectly clear that; under conditions of stress, poor  
food, poor medicine, poor sanitation and transportation difficulties, the  
notice of such seemingly simple things as a cut in overtime or suggested comp  
time, have a tremendous depressing effect on personnel morale. Such notices  
could wait a week or two and in any case when such notices have been read and  
reread prior to deployment, they should not be re-hashed until the deployment  
is over.

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